

Application No. 09/982,334
Amendment Dated 15 January 2004
Reply to Office Action of 15 July 2003

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

We claim:

1-3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently amended) A blade mounting device for a cutting implement, the device comprising:

- a) an adapter ~~having a first~~ comprising an aperture therein;
- b) a cylindrical member adapted to receive power from a power source ~~and which includes and transfer such power to the adapter, the cylindrical member comprising a longitudinally extending axis which is to be aligned with the aperture, the cylindrical member inserted through and held within the aperture so as to allow the in such alignment, such insertion allowing power to be transferred from the power source to the adapter; and~~
- c) the adapter comprises at least a second and third apertures provided on opposite sides of the first aperture through which the cylindrical member is inserted, respectively, for receiving a first coupling members on an either side of the longitudinal axis, the first coupling member receiving a first securing member to hold the blade against the adapter.

5. (currently amended) The device as recited in claim 4 wherein:

the first aperture through which the cylindrical member is inserted has an inner surface which is hexagonal in shape and which receives ~~an a~~ a matingly engagable engageable extension provided on a first end of the cylindrical member whereby contact between the extension and the inner surface permits the transfer of force throughout the adapter so as to permit the blade connected therewith to be turned.

6. (Currently amended) The apparatus as recited in claim 5 wherein:

a second end of the cylindrical member is securable to the implement by a nut so as to held operatively connect each of the cylindrical member, the base member adapter and the blade in abutment.

7. (Canceled)

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8. (New) The apparatus as recited in claim 6, wherein:

the adapter comprises at least a second aperture opposite the aperture through which the cylindrical member is inserted for receiving a second coupling member, the second coupling member receiving a second securing member to hold the blade against the adapter.